



# In Touch

Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition

3rd Quarter 2012

*I keep my ideals  
because in spite  
of everything I  
believe that  
people are good  
at heart.*

-Anne Frank

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## Coalition Announces New Mission and Vision Statements



For over a year the NDVSAC Board of Directors and staff have worked with a consultant for a series of strategic planning sessions. Part of this process has been an evaluation of our current mission statement and revising it to better reflect the work of the Coalition and the future that we envision. Possible changes to the mission statement were also discussed at a Directors Day meeting with the local domestic violence/sexual assault programs.

The new NDVSAC mission statement is:

*The Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition enhances safety and justice by changing the beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence and sexual assault.*

The Board of Directors also created a vision statement for the organization as well as a list of values. The new vision statement is:

*We envision a world where domestic violence and sexual assault are a distant memory and healthy relationships prosper.*

The list of values (in no particular order) is:

- ⌘ Safety
- ⌘ Prevention
- ⌘ Accountability
- ⌘ Diversity/Equality
- ⌘ Collaboration
- ⌘ Education
- ⌘ Empowerment/Autonomy
- ⌘ Leadership

For more information about the strategic planning process, contact:

- ▶ Lynne, Executive Director  
ExecutiveDirector@ndvsac.org or 402-476-6256
- ▶ Linda Olson, Board Chair  
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## Social Media

By Rachel West, Prevention Coordinator



Greetings all! This is my very first Step Up Speak Out piece in *In Touch*. You know the drill – this section of the newsletter provides information on prevention. This piece is yet another avenue for us to share with you the latest and greatest research on prevention, tips and tricks to practicing prevention, and the promising efforts taking place across the state, and in some cases across the country.

One of my responsibilities as Prevention Coordinator will be to continue to develop and maintain the Coalition's Step Up, Speak Out (SUSO) campaign. SUSO is a statewide social marketing campaign that provides teens with information on dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and bullying. It uses various means to reach teens, but relies heavily on its social media components (in this case, a website, a Facebook page, and a Twitter account).

Social media is a common, if not necessary, piece to primary prevention campaigns such as SUSO. Why? First, social media is far reaching. It brings in that large, universal audience to which we geared our primary prevention message. Second, social media is engaging and promotes both dialogue and action among teens. The Coalition designed the SUSO campaign with this very intent. Third, social media is an extremely useful tool in building program and organizational identity. What organization wouldn't benefit from that? And I will throw in a fourth and final benefit to using social media. Social media keeps me informed about the awesome work that other programs and organizations are doing around prevention (including yours!) and it gives me the very tips, tricks, and info on prevention that I then pass onto you.

And if these points don't convince you of the benefits of using social media, then how about looking at the numbers? Did you know that 90% of American teens have used social media?<sup>1</sup> Approximately 75% have a profile on a social networking site.<sup>2</sup> Over two-thirds (68%) are on Facebook.<sup>3</sup> In fact, Facebook has over 800 million users of all ages and Twitter has over 200 million!<sup>4</sup>

That said, while social media is an extremely beneficial component to primary prevention campaigns, it cannot serve as a substitute for more comprehensive primary prevention programming. We know that it is not effective to simply raise teens' awareness of violence without helping them to develop the skills and self-efficacy to take action (as we do in educational programs and groups) and to teach them how to interact with one another in healthy ways. In other words, we know that primary prevention must occur at the individual, relationship, and community levels.

Nonetheless, the benefits social media can bring your organization are tenfold. It's a way to brand your organization and spread your mission and message far and wide. If you would like more information on using social media in your program, email me at [rachelw@ndvsac.org](mailto:rachelw@ndvsac.org). And don't forget to visit the SUSO website at [www.stepupspeakout.org](http://www.stepupspeakout.org). Like our Facebook page! Follow us on Twitter!

1. Common Sense Media (2012). *Social Media, Social Life: How Teens View Their Digital Lives*. Available at <http://www.commonsensemedia.org/sites/default/files/research/socialmediasociallife-final-061812.pdf>.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Idealware. (2011). *The Non-profit Social Media Decision Guide*. Available at <http://www.idealware.org/reports/nonprofit-social-media-decision-guide>.

## VAWA Reauthorization Not Yet Passed

### Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization 2012 (H.R. 4970/S. 1925)

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) was first proposed in 1990 and was enacted in 1994. It was reauthorized in 2000 and 2005. VAWA was to expire in 2011 but has remained in effect while 2012 reauthorization is debated.

VAWA 1994 created federal regulations acknowledging domestic violence and sexual assault as crimes and provided extensive funding for programming, research and education. VAWA funds local domestic violence/sexual assault programs and shelters, community education and education of criminal justice personal, improvement for state criminal justice systems (including law enforcement response to domestic and sexual violence and the keeping of crime statistics), testing for sexually transmitted diseases for sexual assault victims, and protection for immigrant women and children. VAWA 1994 also provided federal resources to encourage community coordinated responses to domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition to 1994 provisions, VAWA 2000 created legal assistance programs for victims and expanded the definition of "crime" to include dating violence and stalking.

In the past, VAWA reauthorization has passed with relative ease, receiving tremendous bi-partisan support. This year, however, the House and the Senate disagree on key details of the bill which has delayed reauthorization. The House and the Senate have both passed versions of VAWA Reauthorization bills this year; however, the House Bill cut protections and programs for same-sex couples, college campuses, indigenous tribes and undocumented immigrants that were included in the Senate Bill.

***The Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition supports the Senate version of the bill, as it best provides for the safety of all victims of violence.***

The Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition, as well as other state Coalitions and national organizations such as the National Network to End Domestic Violence and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, supports the Senate version of the bill, as it best provides for the safety of *all* victims of violence.

On July 30, Speaker John A. Boehner named eight House negotiators to serve on a conference committee that would tasked with bridging the divide between the House and the Senate. A formal conference committee cannot be convened until the House and the Senate vote to convene it.

As of the time that this newsletter was printed, VAWA had not yet been reauthorized.

To learn more about VAWA, visit:

- ⌘ National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) website:
  - ⌘ <http://www.nnedv.org/policy/issues/vawa.html>
- ⌘ National Alliance to End Sexual Violence (NAESV) website:
  - ⌘ <http://endsexualviolence.org/>

To learn how you can support efforts to reauthorize VAWA, see the NNEDV toolkit at: [http://www.nnedv.org/docs/Policy/VAWA\\_Reauth\\_ToolKit.pdf](http://www.nnedv.org/docs/Policy/VAWA_Reauth_ToolKit.pdf)

## Penn State Receives Sanctions Following Sandusky Trial

In June Jerry Sandusky, a former Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) football coach, was found guilty of 45 counts of child sexual abuse, out of 48 counts considered by the judge. The cases involved 10 boys during a 15 year period of time. Sandusky met the boys through his charity, The Second Mile. The Second Mile works with at-risk youth and their families, including mentoring programs, an institute to promote leadership skills, and support for foster families.

The case created a great deal of media focus due to the charges of child sexual abuse but also due to the actions of Penn State administrators who knew about at least some of the incidents. This includes Joe Paterno, who was part of the Penn State staff until 1999 and had been informed of at least one of the incidents of child sexual abuse when it happened.

The Board of Directors of Penn State requested an internal investigation to learn more about the incidents and the responses of university staff, including Joe Paterno. In July a report was released. This report, Report of the Special Investigative Counsel Regarding the Actions of the Pennsylvania State University Related to the Child Sexual Abuse Committed by Gerald A. Sandusky," presents the findings and recommendations from an independent investigation by Louis Freeh and his law firm, Freeh Sporkin & Sullivan, LLP, into the facts and circumstances of the actions of the Pennsylvania State University surrounding the child abuse committed by Jerry Sandusky.

Additionally, the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) has scrutinized the actions of Penn State officials and have levied sanctions against the university. Some of these sanctions are:

- ▶ **\$60 million fine**, equivalent to the approximate average of one year's gross revenues from the Penn State football program, to be paid over a five-year period beginning in 2012 into an endowment for programs preventing child sexual abuse and/or assisting the victims of child sexual abuse.
- ▶ **Four-year postseason ban** on participation in postseason play in the sport of football, beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year; expiring at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 academic year.
- ▶ **Five years of probation**
- ▶ **Vacation of wins since 1998**. The NCAA vacates all wins of the Penn State football team from 1998 to 2011. The career record of Coach Joe Paterno will reflect the vacated records. This will remove the title of "winningest coach" from Paterno.

The NCAA also requires that Penn State adopt all of the recommendations from the Freeh report and take steps to implement everything by December 31, 2012. For a complete list of the NCAA sanctions, visit [www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/ncaa/20120723/21207232](http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/ncaa/20120723/21207232).

Approximately six months ago, Penn State began working with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC). Since the partnership was formed, new procedures have been established and thousands of staff members have been trained to recognize and respond to child sexual abuse and other forms of sexual abuse. PCAR and NSVRC will continue to provide expertise, guidance, and assistance to Penn State as they implement the recommendations from the Freeh report.

Information for this article obtained from various articles and press release posted by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC). To obtain more information or to download a copy of the Freeh report or other documents, visit the NSVRC website at [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org). Information about the NCAA sanctions obtained from the NCAA website, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/ncaa/20120723/21207232>. Information retrieved August 2, 2012.

## National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Celebrates 20 Years



This year marks the 20 year anniversary for the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control's (Injury Center), a program of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The mission of the Injury Center is: *The mission of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control is to prevent injuries and violence, and reduce their consequences.* The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control has four focus areas in which they work toward this mission:

1. Motor Vehicle-related Injuries
2. Violence Against Children and Youth
3. Prescription Painkiller Overdose
4. Traumatic Brain Injury

Projects related to domestic and sexual violence include the *National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)*, launched in 2011. Through this survey, the Injury Center gathers data to describe the prevalence and health consequences of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence. These data can be used to inform policies and programs; establish priorities at the national, state, and local level; and over time, track progress in preventing these forms of violence.

The National Center for Injury Prevention also administers the Rape and Prevention Education (RPE) funds and the DELTA (Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances) program. Another project related to healthy relationships is *Dating Matters: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships*. *Dating Matters* is a comprehensive teen dating violence prevention initiative for 11 to 14-year-olds in high-risk, urban communities. It promotes preventive strategies for teens, their peers, families, schools, and neighborhoods.

Sources: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control, [www.cdc.gov/injury/about](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/about). Information retrieved August 2, 2012.

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## Military - Civilian Advocate Resource Network

The Military-Civilian Advocate Resource Network is the first stop for advocates seeking information about intimate partner violence (IPV) involving military service members and veterans and their families. This includes information about the Department of Defense, Reserves, National Guard, and Department of Veterans Affairs systems and their response to intimate partner violence, pertinent articles and research on IPV and co-occurring conditions such as combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder, justice-involved veterans and veterans treatment courts.

The Military-Civilian Advocate Resource Network is a project of the Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP). BWJP is available for trainings and consultation for both military and civilian communities on issues of collaboration, outreach and victim services, and readiness to work with the specific issues of military-related victims. Recordings of past webinars can be accessed via the BWJP website at [www.bwjp.org/military\\_advocacy\\_resource\\_network.aspx](http://www.bwjp.org/military_advocacy_resource_network.aspx). For more information, visit the website or contact Glenna Tinney, Military Advocacy Program Coordinator, at [gtinney@bwjp.org](mailto:gtinney@bwjp.org) or (703) 822-8118.

Source: Battered Women's Justice Project, [www.bwjp.org/military\\_advocacy\\_resource\\_network.aspx](http://www.bwjp.org/military_advocacy_resource_network.aspx). Information retrieved August 2, 2012.

## Program News

### Crisis Center Breaks Ground for New Building



On July 9 the Crisis Center for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault (Fremont) broke ground on the site of what will be their new facility. Fremont Mayor Scott Getzschman made comments.

“Unfortunately, the need for services has significantly increased over the past five years,” says Suzanne Smith, Executive Director of the Crisis Center. “We’ve seen an 82% increase in the number of individuals served in our five county service area.”

“With the increased demand for services, it became evident that we needed to address our space issues,” states Smith. “For the past 30 years, we’ve been operating out of make-shift office spaces – mostly large old houses that don’t give us adequate space for our staff or the other educational and support services we provide. We need to make sure our advocates and clients can feel comfortable and safe when meeting.”

The Crisis Center’s capital campaign, “Lighting the Way to New Beginnings”, kicked off in the spring with campaign goals of \$1 million to fund construction and provide necessary furnishings, and \$250,000 that would be used to establish an endowment to maintain the property. To date, individuals, businesses, foundations, and grants from all five counties have pledged over \$650,000.

“We’ve had incredible response and generosity from people so far,” says Sheila Monke, Crisis Center Board President, “with donors from each of the five counties we serve. Most are stunned to learn how much of our services are being utilized within their own community and county.”

The new 6,465 sq ft facility will include a victim/survivor center, community education/resource center, and children’s room and outdoor play area.

Source: Press release distribute by the Crisis Center, June 22, 2012. Photos provided by the Crisis Center on August 3, 2012.

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## Programs Implement Community Assessments

Two local domestic violence/sexual assault programs have begun work on community assessments related to sexual assault.

The DOVES Program (Gering) has begun a community assessment as part of the national Sexual Assault Demonstrative Initiative (SADI) grant that they received. DOVES is one of six SADI sites in the United States.

Voices of Hope (Lincoln) implemented a community assessment and safety audit several years ago. However, this process has several stages. The current stage is focused on improving responses to intimate partner sexual violence. They are conducting focus groups and individual interviews with survivors to ascertain needed changes in the system response to intimate partner sexual violence.

## What's New at the Coalition?

### Coalition Welcomes New Staff

On July 16 **Michelle Miller** joined the Coalition staff as the Sexual Violence Program Coordinator. Prior to joining the Coalition, Michelle worked at St. Monica's in Lincoln, which offers behavioral health services for women. Michelle provided therapy to women with chemical dependency and mental health concerns. She also facilitated their domestic violence support groups and provided training on domestic violence, safety planning, and gender specific treatment.

Previous to her work at St. Monica's, Michelle worked at the Friendship Home as an advocate for five years and was a graduate intern with Voices of Hope. Michelle has a bachelor's degree in women's studies, a master's degree in social work, and is a licensed mental health practitioner. Michelle can be reached at 402-476-6256 or michellem@ndvsac.org. Welcome, Michelle!

### Coalition Staff Present at National Conference

**Michelle Zinke**, Training and Resource Coordinator, recently presented a workshop at the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence's conference, *Preserving Our Roots While Looking to the Future*. The conference was a joint endeavor between the NCADV and the National Organization of Men Against Sexism (NOMAS). The session was titled *Nature and Healing: Addressing the Impact of Trauma*. For more information on this topic, or information about the conference, contact Michelle at michellez@ndvsac.org.

### Fraternal Order of Eagles Selects Coalition as Designated Charity



The Nebraska State Aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles has selected the Coalition as their designated charity for the 2012-2013 year. The Coalition and the network of local domestic violence/sexual assault programs will be the beneficiary of funds raised as well as donations of material goods.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles is an international nonprofit organization. Their slogan is "people helping people," which is evident in their partnership with the Coalition and the local programs. The Nebraska State Aerie and Auxiliary have a variety of fundraising items that will be sold at events through May 2013. These items include t-shirts, ribbon pins, static cling stickers, and popcorn bags.

They will also raise funds through silent auctions and other events as well as through grants. Additionally, the Nebraska State Aerie and Auxiliary will distribute packets of information throughout their communities to raise awareness of domestic violence. Local aeries of the Nebraska State Aerie will work with domestic violence/sexual assault programs in their community to provide from the program's "wish list" of needed items.

For more information about the Fraternal Order of Eagles visit <http://nebraska.foe.com> or the national website at [www.foe.com](http://www.foe.com). For more information about this project, contact your local Fraternal Order of Eagles or Lynne and Michelle Z at the Coalition office (ExecutiveDirector@ndvsac.org or michellez@ndvsac.org).

Nebraska Domestic Violence  
Sexual Assault Coalition  
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*Please Note Our New Address!*



NDVSAC is a proud member agency of the  
Community Services Fund. Learn more at:  
www.communityservicesfund.org

#### 2012 NDVSAC Board of Directors

Linda Olson, Chair, O'Neill  
Dawn Conley, Vice-Chair, Papillion  
Bob Moyer, Treasurer, Lincoln  
Andrea Rodriguez, Secretary, Norfolk  
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Jeanie Gilbert, North Platte  
Suellen Koepke, Broken Bow  
Shelby Jones-Schellpeper, Ogallala  
Francine McKenzie, North Platte  
Jamie Snyder, Columbus  
Hilary Wasserburger, Gering

## Mark Your Calendar

### Upcoming Events

#### August

22-24 National Sexual Assault Conference, Chicago, [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)  
28-29 National Conference on Prosecuting Stalking Cases, St. Louis, [www.ncvc.org/src](http://www.ncvc.org/src)

#### September

**10-12 Fundamentals of Advocacy Part I, North Platte, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256**  
**19-20 Crimes of Power and Control: Nebraska State Patrol 2012 Annual Conference, Kearney**  
19-21 National Center for Victims of Crime Conference, New Orleans, [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org)  
**26-27 Directors Day Meetings, Grand Island, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256**

#### October

**11-13 Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking, Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, <http://humantrafficking.unl.edu>**  
**15-17 Fundamentals of Advocacy Part II, North Platte, NDVSAC, 402-476-6256**  
17-19 Healthy Masculinity Summit, Washington, DC, Men Can Stop Rape, [www.mencanstoprape.org](http://www.mencanstoprape.org)  
18-20 SCOPE 2012 Annual Conference, Orlando, School and College Organization for Prevention Educators, [www.wearescope.org](http://www.wearescope.org)